

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09268 191900Z

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ACTION ORM-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3727

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: UNHCR PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 267325; (B) GENEVA 8621

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED REPLY FROM UNHCR ON ABOVE
SUBJECT PURSUANT TO REQUEST REPORTED REF B. FOLLOWING
ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. UNHCR STATES IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CURRENT LEVEL
OF DP'S FROM INDOCHINA IN THAILAND OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN
76,000 WILL BE MAINTAINED INTO EARLY 1977. UNHCR INDICATES
IT UNABLE AT PRESENT TIME TO FORECAST REALISTICALLY THE
SUCCESS OF ITS EFFORTS FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IN 1977.
AS FOR RESETTLEMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES, LETTER NOTES THAT
DURING FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1976 NEARLY 25,000 DP'S HAVE
BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT. IT HOPES TO MAINTAIN
A FLOW OF SOME 1,000 DEPARTURES PER MONTH IN 1977.

3. THAI GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT DP'S ARE IN THAILAND
ON TEMPORARY BASIS HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED.
NONETHELESS, UNHCR STATES, POLICY HAS BEEN BEGUN OF
PERMITTING PEOPLE IN CAMPS TO EARN PART OF LIVING BY
CULTIVATING VEGETABLES, RAISING DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK,
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09268 191900Z

ETC. HOWEVER, DUE TO RESTRICTION AGAINST RICE

CULTIVATION AND OTHER FACTORS, A MINIMUM OF CARE AND MAINTENANCE, NOTABLY PROVISION OF RICE, WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED TO CAMPS IN 1977. RESULTS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO LONGER TERM POLICY FOR LOCAL SETTLEMENT OF THOSE DP'S REMAINING AS OF LAST QUARTER OF 1977 WILL ALSO HAVE EFFECT ON UNHCR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. ASSUMING THAT SOME 80,000 DP'S IN THAILAND WILL REQUIRE MINIMUM CARE AND MAINTENANCE IN 1977, UNHCR CALCULATES ITS NEEDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AT 11.1 MILLION DOLLARS, OF WHICH PRINCIPAL SUMS OF 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOOD, 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR RESETTLEMENT TRANSPORT, 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SELF-RELIANCE SCHEMES, AND 1.0 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT AND CONTINGENCIES.

5. LETTER INDICATES HIGH COMMISSIONER INTENTION OF APPEALING TO GOVERNMENTS FOR ITS THAI PROGRAM IN 1977, AS WAS DONE IN 1975-76. HOWEVER, POINTING TO NECESSITY OF HAVING CONCURRENCE OF THAI GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A PROGRAM, AND "NEW SITUATION IN BANGKOK," IT INDICATES POSSIBILITY APPEAL MAY NOT BE LAUNCHED BEFORE MARCH 1977. ACCORDINGLY, IT JUDGES THAT 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE REQUIRED NOT LATER THAN EARLY JANUARY 1977 TO PERMIT UNHCR TO FINANCE THAI PROGRAM UNTIL FIRST RESULTS OF 1977 APPEAL ARE REALIZED. FIGURE SAID TO INCLUDE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECTS TO BE COMMITTED ASAP IN ORDER THAT "PROGRESS TO DATE BE SUSTAINED AND BENEFITS FELT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR."

6. REPORT LABELLED "CONFIDENTIAL" AND SAID TO BE RESULT OF INTERNAL UNHCR STAFF STUDY WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION IN BANGKOK.

7. MISSION POUCHING LETTER TO DEPARTMENT (REGISTRY NO. 0985879) AND TO EMBASSY BANGKOK (REGISTRY NO. 0985880).
ABRAMS

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